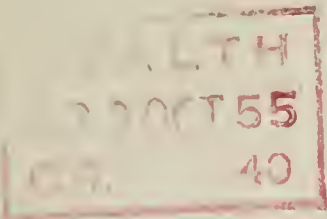


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MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

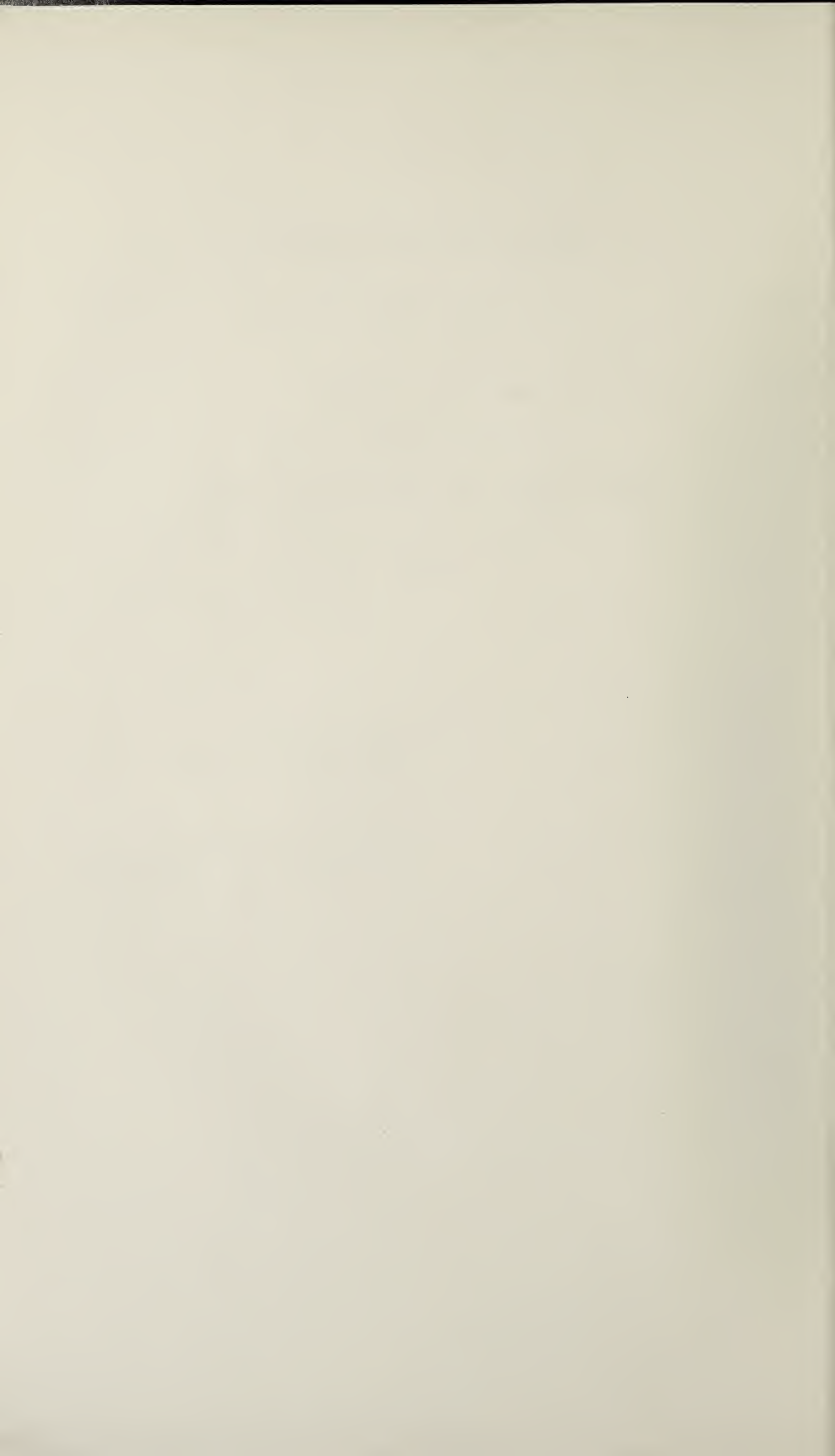
ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1954



L. Spencer Stephens,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt,
Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary
Officer.



MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1954

Chairman of the Council Mr. F. B. Jacomb, J.P.
Vice-Chairman of the Council Mr. A. R. Coats, F.C.I.I.

Members of the Public Health Committee

Dr. B. G. Goodwin, J.P. Chairman

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Mr. A. N. Cutler	Mr. W. F. Watton
Miss A. M. Enderby	Sir F. S. Winnington,
Mrs. P. M. Gibbons	Bart.

Public Health Staff of the Authority

Margaret C. Fell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Officer.

J. D. Blakeway, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Officer and Assistant Engineer
and Surveyor.

Miss P.A.A. Roche,
Shorthand Typist and Clerk.

H. Dew,
Assistant Rodent Officer.



ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954

Public Health Department,
1, The Tything,
Worcester.

August, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Martley Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1954.

The General health of the population remained satisfactory during the year.

A total of 175 live Births were recorded during the year giving a birth rate of 15.83 which is slightly higher than that for England and Wales. The Standardised Death Rate of 10.48 relating to 135 Deaths also compares favourably with that for the Country as a whole (see p.2).

Consideration of the Infant Mortality Rate for the year (45.7) showed it to be much higher than for England and Wales, and further investigation revealed that the majority of these deaths (7 out of 8) were in children under 4 weeks of age. Three deaths were due to Broncho-pneumonia in weakly premature infants, three due to injury during childbirth, and one due to Meningitis. These conditions are largely preventable but only if diagnosed early and full use must be made by expectant and nursing mothers of the Services available to them (see pages 4 and 5).

There was a small outbreak of Whooping Cough with a total of 76 cases scattered throughout the District during the last 6 months of the year but apart from this very few cases of infectious disease were notified (see p.11) 1954 was the off-year for Measles and very few cases of Scarlet Fever were received. There were no cases of Diphtheria, Infantile Paralysis, Enteric Fever or Dysentery and only one case of Food Poisoning. Nine new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and there were three deaths. There is no room for complacency in the diagnosis and treatment of this disease. The Miniature Mass Radiography Unit visited Worcester and Martley where it was available to the general public during July and August. It is hoped that all persons will seek early advice from their Family Doctor for chest complaints then an accurate diagnosis may be made before the disease has involved other members of the family.

In accordance with the usual custom the report is divided into the following sections:-

- Section A Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.
- Section B General Provision of Health Services for the area.
- Section C Sanitary Conditions of the area.
- Section D Housing.
- Section E Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- Section F Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease.

As I only commenced duty in February, 1955, the contents of this report has largely been compiled from information available in the Department. My thanks are due to Dr. Fell and Mr. Pratt for their kind assistance and advice.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. Spencer Stephens,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Rural District of Martley, comprising 52,823 acres is predominantly agricultural in character and lies to the west of the City of Worcester. The River Teme runs through the district dividing it into two parts. The chief industry is agriculture and the district is one of the most important fruit and hopgrowing areas in the country. Each year the hop picking season attracts large numbers of people to the district. These come mainly from the Black Country

Vital statistics for the year are given in the following tables:-

Area in Acres...	52,823
Number of inhabited houses (1st April, 1954) according to Rate Books	3,575
Rateable Value (1st April, 1954)	£42,342
Sum represented by one penny rate	£171/11
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1954)	11,460

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate...	73	94	167
Illegitimate	3	5	8
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	15.27
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	15.83
Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period	...	...	15.20

Still Births

Legitimate...	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	0.35
Rate per 1,000 England and Wales	...	...	0.36

Deaths

From all causes	87	48	135
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	11.78
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	10.23
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	11.30

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate...	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	2	2
		Total	8
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births	...	...	45.7
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales...	...	...	25.5

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

Legitimate...	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	1	1
		Total	7
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births	...	...	39.9
Neonatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	17.7

Causes of Death as Classified by the Registrar General

									<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Meningococcal Infections ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Cancer of Stomach ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Cancer of Lung ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Cancer of Breast ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Cancer of Uterus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	2
Cancer of all other sites ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	9
Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	2
Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Other heart disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	10
Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Bronchitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
All other accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Homicide and operations of war ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Services

Laboratory services are provided at laboratories situated at the County Buildings and the Royal Infirmary, Worcester.

(b) Ambulance Service

This service is provided by the County Council. The ambulance station which serves the district is situated in Worcester. The Hospital Car Service, manned in most cases by volunteers, is used to supplement the ambulance service.

Patients suffering from infectious disease are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

This service is provided by the County Council. In most instances in the Rural District this work is done by the District Nurse/Midwife, who is also the Health Visitor. Nine district Nurse/Midwives are working in the District.

(d) Hospitals

The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Kidderminster.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Maternity cases can be admitted to hospitals at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Stourport.

Sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis are situated in Worcester, Malvern and Knightwick.

(e) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The district is served by the following clinics:-

Ante-Natal Clinics

Shirehall, Worcester

Open on the first and third Saturday in the month at 9 a.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport

Open every Tuesday in the month at 1.30 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster

Open every Monday in the month at 2 p.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Shirehall, Worcester

Open on the first and third Saturday in the month at 9 a.m.

Parish Hall, Hallow

Open on the second and fourth Thursday in the month at 2 p.m.

Club Room, Bell Inn, Broadheath.

Open on first and third Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Section B - (Contd.)

Infant Welfare Clinics

Chantry School, Martley

Open on second Wednesday in the month at 2 p.m.

Village Hall, Alfrick

Open on the fourth Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Clifton-on-Teme

Open on the last Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Leigh

Open on the second Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Great Witley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Little Witley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Shrawley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2. p.m.

Parish Room, Holt

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 3 p.m.

(f) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria can be carried out, free of charge, by the patients own doctor or at the County Council's clinics.

The following inoculations were done during the year:-

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year - 161.

Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year - 117

Vaccination

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year - 102

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year - 12

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47, AND AMENDMENT ACT 1951

These sections place on district Medical Officers of Health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of persons who are in need of care and attention.

In April 1954 consideration was given to taking such action in respect of an elderly gentleman who was living alone in an isolated cottage at Abberley, and was almost totally blind. The District Welfare Officer investigated the case, but shortly afterwards the old gentleman suffered a slight stroke and was admitted to a Hospital bed at Avonside Hospital, Evesham, where he died.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

Steady progress was made by the Consulting Engineer on further plans for the Comprehensive Water Scheme for the whole of the District. Following satisfactory pumping tests on the two boreholes at Astley, the Minister approved the Scheme in principle. The decision of the Bromyard R.D.C. not to take a bulk supply from the scheme to some extent simplified matters, and it was possible for a survey to be made of the routes of all the mains in Part I of the scheme. Orders for an adequate supply of pipes had already been placed and delivery commenced in November. Attempts were made to off load them at suitable storage places along the route where they would be conveniently placed for the work to begin. It was hoped to have the Tenders complete for Part I of the Scheme by the end of the year, but this was not found to be possible.

At Rushwick a 3" extension was laid from the Worcester supply in Bransford Road along the Upper Wick Lane to provide for the new Private Housing Estate in Christine Avenue.

In Hallow a further 13 premises were connected to the mains during the year. With the completion of Part I of the Comprehensive Water Scheme the agreement with Worcester City for a supply to this area from the River Severn will be terminated.

Clifton-on-Teme continued to obtain a reasonable supply of water from the spring situated to the East of the village and samples taken for bacteriological and chemical examination proved satisfactory.

Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining a suitable borehole supply of water for Council Houses at Suckley and water had to be carted during the dry spell. The majority of smaller properties in the District have only shallow wells and of the 72 samples taken during the year, two-thirds were found to be unsatisfactory.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes

With considerable progress being made towards the completion of 29 Council houses at Lower Broadheath, the provision of adequate sewage disposal facilities for the whole of the village became urgent and a scheme was drawn up by the Council's Consulting Engineer. A suitable site for the Disposal Works was chosen on Broadheath Common where certain properties in Upper Broadheath could be included and a Compulsory Purchase Order placed for the acquisition of the land. It was possible to withdraw the Order however upon a suitable purchase price being agreed with the owners. The Scheme has now been approved in principle by the Minister.

Work commenced in August on laying approximately 960 yards of mains in Great Witley, and was virtually complete by the end of the year. A new sewage disposal plant has been designed capable of dealing with the drainage from all the houses on Abberley and Worcester Roads, Abberley Hall Lodge, Stourport Lodge, the School and Village Institute, together with 14 Council Houses on the Stourport Road, but various delays had prevented work being started on this plant at the end of the year. The few properties already connected have been allowed to drain into an existing Tipping Filter until the flow can be diverted. Great Witley is not included in Part I of the Water Scheme, but there is little doubt that the facilities will be most necessary once an adequate supply of piped water is obtained.

Little progress was made with plans for a Sewage Disposal plant at Clifton-on-Teme, as the Minister declared his intention of reducing the amount of work to be carried out in order to curtail capital expenditure. With the omission of one filter bed, smaller settlement tanks and the re-siting of the sludge beds it may be possible to fix a starting date during the Spring of 1955.

The following table gives particulars of the water supply and methods of sewage disposal in the district:-

PARISH	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, e.g. wells, springs.	Sewerage and Sewage Disposal					
	Direct to Houses	By means of street-pipe	No. of Dwellings connected to public sewer.	Population served		No. of Houses with					
	No. of Dwelling houses	Population				No. of Dwellings	Pails	Cesspits etc.	Private installations.		
Abberley	-	-	-	-	150	481	11	35	76	47	16
Alfrick	-	-	-	-	125	401	-	-	64	41	20
Astley	-	-	-	-	358	1,045	-	-	275	67	16
Bramsford	5	10	-	-	83	267	-	-	61	25	-
Broadheath	-	-	-	-	225	722	10	32	133	54	28
Broadwas	-	-	-	-	82	268	-	-	49	32	1
Clifton-on-Teme	85	267	13	42	35	112	74	238	47	5	1
Cotheridge	-	-	-	-	51	164	-	-	11	21	19
Doddenham	-	-	-	-	71	128	-	-	49	20	2
Grimley	-	-	-	-	195	625	-	-	137	57	1
Hallow	182	584	-	-	152	489	219	703	81	25	9
Hillhampton	-	-	-	-	33	106	-	-	19	3	6
Holt	-	-	-	-	105	337	-	-	59	23	23
Kenswick	-	-	-	-	9	29	-	-	5	4	-
Knightwick	-	-	-	-	39	125	-	-	34	5	-
Leigh	4	13	-	-	288	915	29	97	210	49	4
Lulsley	-	-	-	-	41	132	-	-	34	7	-
Martley	-	-	-	-	275	877	53	176	173	44	5
St. John County	21	67	-	-	172	551	100	321	68	23	2
Lower Sapey	-	-	-	-	46	154	-	-	30	9	9
Shelsley Beauchamp	-	-	-	-	59	189	-	-	50	9	-
Shelsley Kings	-	-	-	-	74	238	-	-	66	7	1
Shelsley Walsh	-	-	-	-	13	42	-	-	11	2	-
Shrewley	-	-	-	-	138	440	-	-	112	25	1
Suckley	-	-	-	-	159	510	-	-	120	13	20
Wichenford	-	-	-	-	119	382	-	-	85	14	20
Witley, Great	-	-	-	-	116	372	33	106	49	32	2
Witley, Little	-	-	-	-	54	174	-	-	35	7	12

SECTION D

HOUSING

The following table shows the housing work carried out in the district during the year:-

Number of new houses erected during the year

(1)	by the local authority...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
(2)	by other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	34

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Acts)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under One above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

3. Action under Statutory Powers

A	<u>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936</u>							
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices							
	by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	by local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
B	<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>							
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices							
	by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	by local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Section D - (Contd)

C	<u>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936</u>						
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	2
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings accepted ...	...	...	...	...	...	4

D	<u>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936</u>						
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...				Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...				Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV) - Overcrowding

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of this year	}	Not Known
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein		
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein		
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year		Nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		14
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases		58
	(iii)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved		Nil

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This work was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. Routine Inspections were made of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold.

Early in the year the Government announced its intention to return the control of the Meat Industry to private enterprise. With this decontrol the Ministry of Food discontinued their arrangements for large scale inspection of meat in the bigger Municipal Abattoirs and it was announced that the Sanitary Inspectors would again be responsible for such work. Much of the meat sold within the Rural District continues to be slaughtered in Worcester or Kidderminster however.

The owners of two private slaughterhouses declared their intention to slaughter with effect from the appointed day (3rd July). It was possible to issue a licence to one immediately and the other was served with a notice to carry out certain works which were completed within the specified period (4 months). The introduction of the Fatstock Guaranteed Prices scheme has meant extra paper work, but generally speaking the work of routine meat inspection has gone quite smoothly. Routine inspections were made of food shops, catering and ice-cream premises during the year.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Mass Radiography Survey of Martley 26th and 31st August, 1954

During the visit to Martley a total of 94 people were examined by Miniature Film as follows:-

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
50	44	94

Of these, 4 were recalled for large films and 2 were examined clinically.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Tuberculosis

- 1 person was referred to the Chest Clinic as possibly active tuberculosis requiring further investigation.
- 1 person was found to have inactive tuberculosis and no further action was advised.

Other abnormalities

- 1 person was found to have an abnormality for which no further action was advised.

Infectious Disease

The following table show the incidence of notifiable disease which occurred in the district during the year:-

The incidence of cases of Notifiable Diseases during 1954 is shown in the following table

	Under 1	1 -	3 -	5 -	10 -	15 -	25 -	65 -	Total cases Notified
1. Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	9	2	-	-	-	14
3. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid B)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Interperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	1	-	2	2	1	4	1	11
7. Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
8. Encephalitis lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Measles (ex. Rubella)	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
10. Whooping Cough	4	11	18	35	5	2	1	-	76
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
14. Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1954

Age Per- iod	New cases				Deaths +			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	7	2	-	3	-	-	-

+ Compiled from the Tuberculosis Register
and Local Registrar's Death Returns

Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register at the
end of the Year

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Annual Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1949	28	26	16	17	87
1950	33	27	15	18	93
1951	34	28	16	18	96
1952	37	33	13	15	98
1953	34	36	12	13	95
1954	27	41	11	11	90

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER

Public Health Department,
1, The Tything,
Worcester.

August, 1955.

To the Rural District Council of Martley

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my eighth Annual Report on the work of my Department in relation to the administration of the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

During the year under review I was appointed Engineer and Surveyor in addition to Chief Sanitary Officer and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the Council for their confidence in me. For some time I have been carrying out duties which are normally the function of the Engineer and Surveyor and I shall endeavour to continue to serve the Council, and the District as a whole, to the best of my ability.

The control of the Council's water scheme when completed, and the consequent necessity for installing sewerage schemes, will entail a large amount of extra work in my Department which can only be carried out thoroughly and in a satisfactory manner by a staff of suitable size. At the present time all essential public health duties are being carried out but certain other duties concerned with public health, building inspection, housing, etc., are not being dealt with as expeditiously as I would wish. The work entailed in bringing public services to the district, maintaining a high standard of public health and carrying out the various duties which seem to devolve upon my Department is likely to increase considerably during the next two years and I would ask that this fact be borne in mind by the Council.

During the year the Council have been somewhat concerned at the apparent slow rate of progress of the comprehensive water scheme but it should be remembered that a considerable amount of preparation is needed before construction actually starts. It is anticipated that, once tenders have been accepted, the scheme will be carried out relatively quickly but the Council should be prepared for setbacks as a scheme of this size always presents many problems before it is installed and working satisfactorily.

The change of attitude of the Government during 1954 towards works of capital expenditure was very welcome and has enabled one or two outstanding small sewerage schemes to be carried out. The co-operation of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has enabled these schemes to be completed reasonably quickly as will be seen from the fact that the Great Witley Extension No. 1 scheme was first considered by the Council in November, 1953 and it had been designed, installed and was working before the end of December, 1954. This co-operation is appreciated and does assist your officers in providing public services when they are needed urgently.

In the housing field the increased rate of production was maintained and a total of 69 units of accommodation was provided during the year, divided almost equally between private enterprise and the local authority. With the abolition of building controls the rate of building private houses may increase slightly in the future but the acquisition of suitable sites in this district remains the governing factor.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. L. PRATT,

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Officer.

1. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING AND BUILDING BYELAWS

The duties delegated to the Council by the County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act were carried out without any "difference of opinion". Several applications of an interesting and unusual nature were considered during the year; several of these related to the proposed use of land for private house development, a question which arouses considerable discussion in a rural area where both rateable value and agricultural land are required urgently. One unusual application, which was refused, was for permission to carry out stock car racing on a track to be constructed round the large fountain at Witley Court.

Three appeals against decisions by the Council were made during the year as follows:-

- (a) Refusal to allow, in a residential area, the erection of a large second-hand corrugated iron garage for use in a greengrocery business. The Council's decision was upheld by the Minister.
- (b) Refusal to allow a caravan site in a small valley at the rear of an inn. The Council's decision was upheld by the Minister.
- (c) Refusal to allow mineral workings on 13.8 acres of agricultural land adjacent to other mineral workings recently approved. The Council's decision was upheld by the Minister.

Few cases of unauthorised development were reported and all were dealt with successfully by informal action.

The New Building Byelaws were finally approved by the Minister and came in operation on July 26th, 1954. The interpretation of the Byelaws to the local Builders in such a way that applications for approval can be made in a satisfactory manner is likely to prove difficult and, in addition the checking of applications under the Byelaws now involves more time and discussion with the applicant, a point which should be borne in mind when the number of applications received is studied.

Details of applications to develop, etc., are given in tabular form below:

Applications to Develop under Planning Act

	Plans for new construction	Outline applications	Informal enquiries	Change of use of land and buildings	Total
Brought forward from 1953	2	1	1	-	4
Received during 1954	107	30	7	2	146
Total applications	109	31	8	2	150
Applications approved	93	12	6	2	113
Applications refused	10	7	2	-	19
Applications withdrawn	1	2	-	-	3
Applications outstanding	5	10	-	-	15
Total	109	31	8	2	150

Applications under Building Byelaws

Brought forward from 1953	-	-
Received during 1954	-	109
		109
Applications approved	-	104
Applications refused	-	1
Applications outstanding	-	4
		109

2. HOUSING

(a) Building Licensing

The Council continued during the year to carry out the few functions remaining under delegation from the Minister of Housing and Local Government and Ministry of Works.

As from the 1st January, 1954, the "free allowance" of building work which could be carried out to any premises was £1,000 and this continued in force until building licensing was terminated on the 10th November, 1954. From the 1st April, 1954, all new houses under 1,500 square feet floor area were licensed by the Ministry of Works and all larger houses by the local authority; this is reflected in the table below showing the number of licences issued.

The relaxation in control of new house building and repairs has not caused any appreciable improvement in the provision of living accommodation or improving existing house standards. The cost of repairs is such that only urgent work can be afforded and the provision of new houses is entirely dependant upon obtaining a site approved by the planning authority and the Land Commissioner and which also complies with the building byelaws. This is not an easy job in a district which is predominantly agricultural and where the soil is extremely fertile.

Details of licences issued and of progress in the provision of housing accommodation are given below:-

Issue of Licences

	<u>No. of Licences</u>	<u>Amount £</u>
New Houses...	52	103,852
Conversions and additional accommodation...	-	-
House repairs ...	-	-
Other repairs, Supplementary licences, etc.	-	-
Total	52	103,852

Provision of Housing Accommodation

	Council Houses	Private Houses			Total
		Min. of Wks. licence	Subsidy	L.A. Private licence	
No. of houses under construction 1.1.54	36	4	2	21	63
No. of licences issued during 1954	-	34	1	17	52
No. of houses completed & occupied during 1954	34	1	1	32	68
No. of houses under construction 31.12.54	36	32	1	5	74

The table below shows the units of accommodation provided during the past seven years:-

Year	Council Houses	Private Houses				Total
		Min of Works licence	Subsidy	Private licence	Con-version	
1948	51	-	-	25	8	84
1949	21	-	-	11	-	32
1950	34	1	4	12	2	53
1951	35	2	3	3	4	47
1952	6	2	9	7	8	32
1953	36	4	2	21	-	63
1954	34	1	1	32	1	69
Total	217	10	19	111	23	380

(b) Housing

The general standard of housing accommodation in small dwellings showed little improvement during the year although every effort was made to get repairs carried out on change of tenancy or when occupiers were rehoused by the Council.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, which it was hoped would assist in raising the standard of repair, has not so far produced any results. No applications either from landlords or tenants have been received and it would appear that there is an attitude of suspicion by both parties to the somewhat complicated provisions of the Act.

The one bright spot in the picture relates to improvement grants. In the current year many more applications for grants have been received and this is mainly due to a change of attitude by the Council and to greater and better publicity both by the government departments and the Council. Practically all the applications received so far are for works of improvement which raise the standard but do not provide additional units of accommodation. The lack of definite instructions as to what are works of improvement or repair renders administration somewhat difficult but an attempt has been made to administer the Act in the spirit if not always to the letter. Since Local Authorities have been given

powers of administration a speeding up of procedure has resulted and this has allowed owners to make preliminary inquiries regarding the suitability of their premises before going to the expense of preparing detailed plans and specifications, as they know that the formal application will be dealt with by the same authority.

The following table gives details of applications dealt with to date:-

Improvement Grants

Year	Rec'vd	Withdrawn	Refused	Approved	Out-stand ing	Completed	Amount £
1950	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
1951	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
1952	1	-	1	-	-	1	299
1953	6	3	1	1	1	-	-
1954	23	-	1	19	3	11	2,928
Total	32	3	4	21	4	12	£3,227

Average grant per house - £269.

The total cost to the Council of the improvements to twelve houses, based on 25% of the grants given, is £806 or £67 per house.

(c) Re-Housing

During the year 72 lettings were made by the Housing Committee as against 53 in 1953. Of the year's lettings 35 or 48% were given to families recommended on public health grounds for the following reasons:

<u>Overcrowding</u>	<u>Structurally Defective Houses</u>	<u>Shacks or Caravans</u>
14	16	5

No houses were allocated specifically to tuberculosis patients.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(a) House Drainage

The following new drainage installations were approved and installed during the year:-

	<u>New Houses</u>	<u>Existing Houses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Septic Tanks	21	20	41
Connections to public sewer	34	13	47
Connections to private treatment plant	14	7	21
Total	69	40	109

Defective drainage to 17 premises was remedied and one sewer blockage removed.

Arrangements have been made with the Droitwich Rural District Council to hire their cesspit emptier for use on Council Housing Sites and for private houses when required. The cost of the work to private houses is re-charged by the Council to the owners or occupiers.

A table showing the number of houses connected to public sewers, etc., in each Parish is contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

(b) Sewerage Schemes

Rushwick

105 houses are now connected to the public sewer in this district of St. John's County. This includes 96% of the existing houses on the line of the sewer and 10 new houses on a new private housing estate.

Hallow

It was not possible to instal the additional sludge beds at these works during the year and the effluent was therefore below the standard required by the River Board. The experiment of disposing of some of the wet sludge by pumping it on to adjoining farm land for composting with straw was continued for part of the year.

Broadheath

Approval in principle was given by the Minister to the installation of the outfall sewer and part of the treatment works contained in the proposed village scheme. The Council's Consulting Engineer was instructed to prepare this part of the scheme and drawings were submitted to the Minister in December.

With the imminent completion of a further 29 Council houses and 8 private houses, this scheme is urgently required if a complete breakdown in the small treatment works now being used is to be avoided.

Martley

Extension No. 1 to the village sewer was approved in principle by the Minister during February and the tender approved in June. Work commenced in July and was completed before the end of September, 360 linear yards of 6" G.S.S. pipes and 8 manholes being constructed.

Great Witley

The Scheme for extending sewerage facilities to the new Council Housing estate in the Stourport Road area and to the School, Village Institute and private properties in the Worcester Road area (known as "Extension No. 1") was completed and forwarded to the Minister in March. Tenders were invited in June, forwarded to the Minister in July and were accepted during that month. Work was commenced on August 30th and was completed by the 18th December. The works include 800 yards of G.S.S. sewer, 9 manholes, 160 yards of 3" spun iron rising main, pump house, collecting well and machinery.

The installation of this scheme, together with the absence of adequate treatment plant at the outfall of the existing sewer, made the provision of a proper treatment plant necessary immediately and instructions to this effect were given by the Council late in 1953. The scheme was prepared and submitted to the Minister in June, 1954 and, as no objections were received, the Minister gave permission to advertise for tenders and gave an unofficial starting date for April 1st, 1955. It is hoped to commence work on that date and to have the plant in operation by the end of June, 1955.

Clifton-on-Teme

The Scheme for the construction of a sewage treatment plant to replace treatment by irrigation, which was prepared and submitted to the Minister in 1950 but which could not be authorised by him owing to the curtailment in capital

expenditure, was re-considered in June for early authorisation.

Negotiations with the owner of adjacent land regarding the disposal of the effluent were carried on for several months and the Minister has now been asked to approve the amended scheme. If early approval is given it may be possible to carry out this work during 1955.

Astley

The Council's Consulting Engineer has been asked to prepare a sewerage scheme for the area surrounding the source of the Council's main water supply at Riddleys Cross. It is hoped that this scheme will be approved and installed before the boreholes are put into operation.

Priority of Schemes

The Council have agreed to a recommendation from the Development Committee that sewerage and sewage disposal schemes shall be designed and installed by this Department in the following order:-

1. Great Witley - new sewage treatment plant
2. Clifton-on-Teme - Ditto
3. Hallow - sewer extension in Parkfield Lane
4. Grimley - sewerage scheme and treatment plant for Sinton Green and Moseley Corner areas

In addition to the above-mentioned schemes sewerage facilities will have to be provided in the undermentioned areas as soon as possible, especially when a mains water supply has been provided:-

- | | | |
|--------------|---|------------------------|
| Astley | - | Dunley area |
| Shrawley | - | Centre of the village. |
| Leigh | - | Leigh Sinton area |
| Bransford | - | Suckley Road area |
| Great Witley | - | Abberley Hill area |
| Shelsley | - | Area adjoining the |
| Beauchamp | | Church |

4. WATER SUPPLY

(a) Private Supplies

No acute shortage of water from these supplies occurred during the year and no water had to be carted during this period.

72 Samples from wells and springs were submitted for examination of which 48 were unsatisfactory bacteriologically and 14 were unsatisfactory chemically. 14 wells were repaired and cleansed.

(b) Council House Supplies

The several small diameter boreholes sunk to provide water to groups of Council Houses have, with one or two exceptions, proved just adequate for their purpose. At Suckley, however, difficulty was experienced with the volume produced by the borehole and water had to be carted for a considerable time. The sinking of an auxillary borehole did not entirely solve the difficulty and, whilst sufficient water is available at the moment, further trouble is anticipated.

Other boreholes sunk in the marl have also proved troublesome, some by silting and others by a reduction in volume and all by the extreme hardness of the water produced.

(c) Public Supplies

Details of the number of houses supplied from public mains are contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. No major extensions or alteration to these supplies were made during the year.

Clifton-on-Teme

The quantity of water pumped during the year for houses in this Parish was 2,675,950 gallons as compared with 2,443,250 gallons in 1953.

The source of this supply, a spring, proved adequate throughout the year. A sample of water taken for examination proved it to be suitable for drinking purposes.

Hallow

The mains supply to a part of this Parish is controlled by the City of Worcester. 13 premises were connected to the mains during the year and one small extension. A 3" diameter spun iron pipe was made to Park Lane; this enabled a further 7 houses to obtain a mains supply.

Rushwick

The first extension of the Worcester City supply to the new private housing estate was carried out early in the year when 270 yards of 3" diameter spun iron pipes were laid. Further extensions to this scheme will be required as and when the estate is enlarged.

Comprehensive Water Scheme

The decision of the Bromyard Rural District Council not to take a bulk supply of water from this scheme enabled this Council to instruct the Consulting Engineer to proceed with the details of the original scheme. Approval in principle to the scheme was given by the Minister and a licence granted to extract the necessary volume of water from the two boreholes at Astley.

The Consulting Engineer made a survey of the routes of all mains in Part I of the Scheme and details were submitted to the County Council and to the Fire Brigade. It was hoped to invite tenders for the carrying out of Part I of the scheme towards the end of the year but this was not possible and it would now appear that work on the construction cannot start before April, 1955.

Tenders for fittings, hydrants, etc., have been accepted and deliveries are to be made early in 1955. Delivery of pipes commenced in November and these are stored at several dumps and are being unloaded by direct labour.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection

The trial scheme of fortnightly collection in seven complete Parishes and built-up areas of four Parishes, with two-monthly collection of incombustible refuse in the remainder of the Parishes, proved successful and was placed on a permanent basis.

The cost of collection again increased during the year and this was due to extra mileage travelled, an increase in fuel charges and an increase in wages of employees.

(b) Refuse Storage

The Council continued to encourage the use of suitable dustbins by selling them to the public at cost price plus a small delivery charge. 81 bins were sold during the year but there are still too many premises where refuse is stored in unsuitable containers which are un-hygienic and make emptying difficult.

(c) Refuse Disposal

The provision of suitable sites for tipping is still proving difficult, especially as such sites need to be in strategic positions, to be accessible to highways and to meet with the approval of the local planning authority.

This problem is becoming urgent in the northern Parishes and in the Leigh and Bransford areas as it is uneconomical to transport refuse to central tips from these outlying districts. An extension of the Council's main tip at Grimley was obtained and an area of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres is now being held on a lease for 14 years.

6. SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Ice-cream

Number of premises registered for manufacture and sale	1
Number of premises registered for sale only	43
Number of samples taken for examination	3
Number of samples certified as satisfactory	3
Number of samples certified as unsatisfactory	-

The plant and methods at the manufacturing premises are satisfactory and the ice-cream produced is of a high standard being heat-treated and cooled before freezing. An indicating and recording thermometer is installed.

Pre-packed ice-cream only is sold from all other premises and this is contained in refrigerators; facilities for hand-washing, etc., are provided at all premises.

Food premises

The following food premises are in use in the district:-

(a) Unregistered

Food Shops

(a) Butchers Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Other food shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Inns, Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

(b) Registered

Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice-cream manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice-cream retailers	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Dairies (under M & D Regs. 1949)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Inspection of Registered Premises

The following inspections of registered and other premises have been carried out during the year:-

Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Ice-cream manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice-cream retailers	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Inspection of Registered Premises (contd.)

Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inns, Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

Generally speaking, the above premises are kept clean and are provided with adequate sanitary accommodation and hand washing facilities for the employees.

The sanitary accommodation and washing up facilities at several Inns and Public Houses require improvement and the owners have been informed of the works required. In three cases these improvements were completed during the year.

Education in Food Hygiene.

Owing to the scattered nature of the district it is impracticable to attempt any courses of lectures in food hygiene. The majority of the food premises in the district are family businesses where hired assistants are not usually employed. Advice and instruction in food hygiene are given during the normal inspections of the premises where it is thought to be necessary.

Condemned Food

No food was condemned during the year and no special examinations of stocks was requested.

Slaughter Houses

Two applications were received to re-open existing slaughter houses in July when the Ministry of Food handed over control to the local authorities. The Council considered carefully the needs of the district and consulted individual butchers on the supply question; it was found that the majority of supplies were obtained from wholesalers or retailers situated in Worcester, Kidderminster, Malvern and Stourport and that slaughtering facilities in these areas, although strained, could cope with the demand.

The two applications were considered and one was granted immediately as the premises were satisfactory; the owner of the other slaughterhouse was served with a notice requiring minor repairs and when these were completed a licence was issued.

It has been found that supplies of meat in the district have been adequate and the quality of meat and the standard of slaughtering at the two slaughterhouses in operation have been consistently high as will be seen from the list given below of meat rejected:

100% of all animals killed at slaughterhouses have been examined and details are given herewith:-

Animals killed and inspected:-

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Total</u>
57	2	40	93	172

Meat rejected as unfit for consumption:-

Cattle

1 Liver	- Abscess	1 Lungs	- Tuberculosis
1 Udder	- Mastitis	1 Head & Tongue	- Tuberculosis
1 Lungs	- Abscess	75lbs. meat	- Bruising

Sheep

1 Head, pluck and kidneys - Imperfect bleeding
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Livers - Fluke

Pigs

1 Hindquarters - Imperfect bleeding
1 Lungs - Pneumonia

All condemned meat is stained and is disposed of by the butcher to approved dealers.

Meat Grading

One slaughterhouse is designated as a grading centre for pigs and the Council decided to allow the meat inspector to act as Grading Officer for a trial period of six months. In all 19 pigs have been graded this year.

Milk Production

The duties remaining with the local authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949 were carried out and all the premises were found to be satisfactory.

There are no pasteurising plants in the district and only four dairymen are registered.

Food and Drugs Adulteration.

The responsibility for this work rests with the Worcestershire County Council.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

(a) Camps and Moveable Dwellings

Regular inspections of all camping sites and sites for moveable dwellings were made and informal action only was required to keep the sites up to the standard required.

Sites for 11 caravans were licensed during the year, 5 for permanent accommodation and 6 for holiday use.

(b) Hop-pickers Accommodation.

Owing to the wet weather and lack of sun, the picking season started somewhat later than usual but it was carried out under fair conditions. Owing to this late start, the uncertain weather and the difficulties of school holidays, insufficient pickers arrived at most farms and it was estimated that only two-thirds of the number required were available.

Two new hop-picking machines were installed this year and the number now in operation is 22. As the difficulty in obtaining pickers increases it is anticipated that many more machines will be installed in the near future.

The condition of the quarters generally was good, overcrowding being non-existent and scavenging being slightly better than in previous years. Dr. Caucchi of the Ministry of Health made a tour of several barracks and in his report congratulated the Council on the good standard of accommodation provided for hop-pickers.

Since the end of food rationing no definite figure as to the number of pickers coming into the district is available from the Food Office but it is estimated that 2,400 pickers were imported this year.

The usual nursing facilities were provided to all farms in the district by nurses employed by the County Council, District Nurses and the Salvation Army. The nursing arrangements worked smoothly and no case of infectious disease was notified.

(c) Petroleum Act

The total number of storage licences issued during the year was 71 and the gallonage involved was 60,760.

Two new installations were approved.

(d) Rodent Control

Routine inspections of the district were carried out in the usual manner during the year and treatments made at the request of owners or occupiers of premises. Free treatments are given to dwelling houses and the charge for treating business premises is 7/6d. per hour.

The number of treatments carried out during the year was as follows:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>						<u>Treatments</u>
(i)	Private dwellings...	...	...	...	...	405
(ii)	Business premises...	...	...	...	...	17
(iii)	Local authority sewers	...	...	...	...	6
(iv)	Local authority refuse tips	...	...	...	...	44
(v)	Agricultural	...	...	...	...	21
Total ...						<u>493</u>

SUPERVISION OF WORK PLACES

The following is a summary of the work carried out under this heading:-

	Registered	Inspections	Defects	
			Found	Remedied
Factories with power	36	22	1	1
Factories with-out power	2	1	-	-
Totals	38	23	1	1

In addition four inspections were made of the premises used by outworkers in the making of gloves.